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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/557,991	04/25/2000	Susie J. Wee	10992724	8759

7590 11/10/2003

IP Administration
Legal Department 20BN
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EXAMINER

AN, SHAWN S

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2613

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DATE MAILED: 11/10/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

KS

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/557,991

Applicant(s)

WEE ET AL.

Examiner

Shawn S An

Art Unit

2613

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 21-30 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Art Unit: 2613

DETAILED ACTION

Request for Continued Examination

1. The request filed on 10/23/03 for a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 based on parent Application No. 09/557,991 is acceptable and a RCE has been established. An action on the RCE follows.

Response to Amendment

2. As per Applicant's instructions in Paper 9 as filed on 10/23/03, claims 21 and 25 have been amended.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 11-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meyer (5,502,493) in view of Bailleul (6,181,743).

Regarding claim 11, Meyer discloses a method of processing bitstream representing a compressed image frame sequence, and apparatus, comprising:

receiving for each frames identifying a subset of image slices for the frame, wherein the subsets are independently encoded from other image slices, such that any motion vector point to an identified subset of another frame level by DCT (Fig. 5; col. 8, lines 63-67; col. 9, lines 1-15);
decodings the subsets (col. 9, lines 1-15); and

Art Unit: 2613

encoding image slices from decoded data (Fig. 4a).

Meyer fails to disclose:

selectively editing decoded data,

encoding new image slices from decoded data and edited data; and

inserting the new image slices into the bitstream and generating a representative an output signal.

However, Bailleul teaches:

selectively editing decoded data (Fig. 5),

encoding new image slices from the decoded data and edited data (Fig. 5, encoder); and

inserting the new image slices into the bitstream (Fig. 5, A) and generating a representative an output signal (Fig. 5, VLC).

Therefore, it would have been obvious that a person of ordinary skill in the art employing Meyer's reference to incorporate the editing concept/method as taught by Bailleul for an efficient editing/splicing operation.

Regarding claim 12, Bailleul discloses MPEG 2 (col. 1, lines 15-16).

Regarding claims 13, 15-16, and 20, as discussed above, identifying position of slice layer or total number of slice layer which includes one or more macroblocks arranged in the horizontal direction is well known in the MPEG encoding format.

Therefore, the Examiner takes official notice that it would have been considered obvious to identify image slices associated with the subset or one of an object, or fixed spatial region across image frames for a well known reason of editing. Furthermore, it would also have been considered obvious to insert new information identifying slices of the subset into a frame header of the output signal so as to accommodate such as insertion of logos.

Regarding claim 14, Bailleul discloses inserting a logo (Fig. 5, Logo(n)) and generating TV broadcast signal (col. 1, lines 5-17).

Art Unit: 2613

Regarding claims 17-18, the Examiner takes official notice that a color correction, mixing images, a scaling, and cropping on image data as part of editing process is well known and conventional in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to employ Bailleul's editing method so as to perform conventional color correction, mixing images, a scaling, or cropping on image data so as to make necessary corrections on the edited data.

Furthermore, Bailleul discloses encoding decoded data and edited data including compressing and coding decompressed data and edited data to generate new image slices (Fig. 5).

Regarding claim 19, the Examiner takes official notice that setting up a bitstream parameter is well known in the art for an efficient rate control (note: Wee et al, 6,104,441).

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 21-30 are allowed as including novel features (the underlined amended limitations).

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shawn An whose telephone number (703) 305-0099 and schedule are Tuesday through Friday.



SHAWN S. AN
PATENT EXAMINER

SSA

November 4, 2003